

AMERICAN PENNY MAGAZINE,

AND

FAMILY NEWSPAPER.

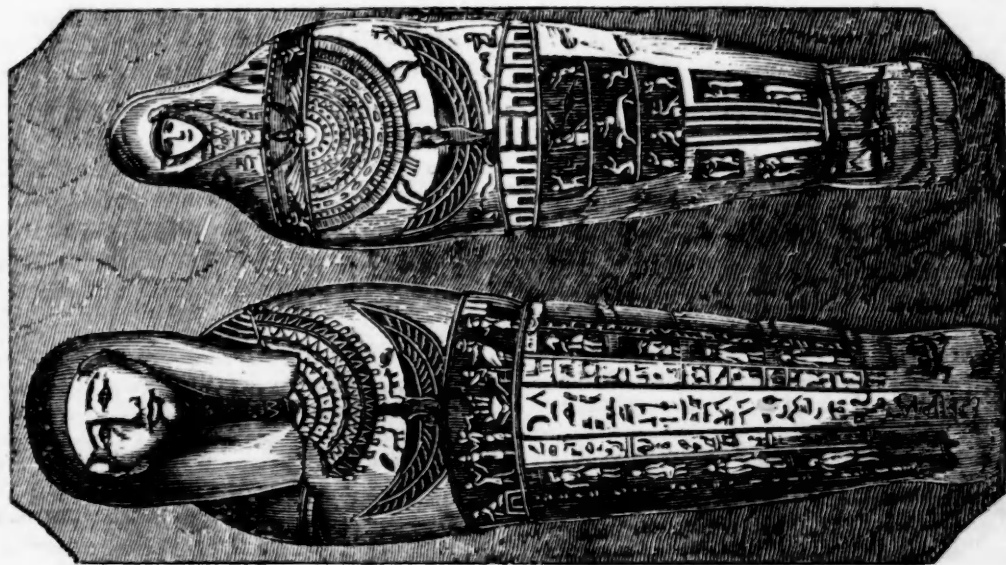
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No. 21.



EGYPTIAN MUMMIES.

These figures show the forms and appearance of many of the dead bodies which have been taken from numerous sepulchres of the ancient Egyptians. They are usually enclosed in wooden coffins, shaped and painted so as somewhat to resemble the mummies themselves; and, when taken out, are often found to be well preserved. The resinous substances with which they were saturated, and the aromatics used by the embalmers, have preserved them from decay, as well as from the attacks of insects and other animals; and the long bandages of linen may be unrolled, by a careful hand, so as to show the manner of swathing, and to disclose the form of the person interred so many centuries ago.

Egyptian antiquities have now become so favorite a subject of study, and so much interesting light has been thrown on certain points of history by the investigations made in the long obscure study, that many of our readers would deem it unnecessary,

should we here describe the process of embalming, or repeat any of the accounts, now so familiar, of the discoveries made by Belzoni, and some of the other best known writers of travels in Egypt. Referring our younger readers, therefore, to Rollin's Ancient History, Vol. I., and to several smaller popular works on Egypt, we will add a few extracts from such books as we have reason to presume are less familiar to most of our countrymen.

We would, however, remind our readers, that the oldest notice of embalming, is found in that most venerable, authentic and valuable of all histories, the Bible. (Genesis, ch. 50, v. 2 and 3.) For many prints, and descriptions, and observations on Egyptian Antiquities, see the first volume of this magazine, between pages 65 and 422.

The following extract is from Denon's Travels, Chapter 20, and describes the Mummy chambers in the Tombs of the Kings, or City of the Dead, near Thebes.

I now began my researches, accompanied by some volunteers. I examined the grottoes which we had taken by assault: they were constructed without magnificence, consisting of a regular double gallery supported by pillars, behind which are a row of chambers, often double, and tolerably regular. If we have not observed tombs, and even some remains of mummies, we might be tempted to believe that these were the dwellings of the primitive inhabitants of Egypt; or rather that, after having first served for this purpose, these subterranean caves had become the abode of the dead, and had, at last, been restored by the people of Kurnu to their original destination.

In proportion as the height of these grottoes increases they become more richly decorated; and I was soon convinced by the magnificence both of the paintings and sculptures, and of the subjects which they represented, that I was among the tombs of great men or heroes. Those which are believed to belong to the ancient kings (which in my last journey I went to visit three quarters of a league in the desert) are only distinguished from the others by the magnificence of the sarcophagi, and the mysterious solitude of their situation: the others immediately overlook the great buildings in the town. The sculpture in all is incomparably more labored and higher finished than any that I have seen in the temples, it was like the work of the chisel itself, and I stood in astonishment at the high perfection of the art, and of its singular destiny, to be fixed in places devoted to silence and obscurity. In the working of these galleries, beds of a very fine grained calcareous clay have occasionally been crossed; and here the lines of the hieroglyphics have occasionally been cut with a firmness of touch and a precision, of which marble offers but few examples; the figures have an elegance and correctness of contour, of which I never thought Egyptian sculpture susceptible. Here too I could judge of the style of this people, in subjects which were neither hieroglyphic nor historical, nor scientific, for these were representations of small scenes taken from nature, in which the stiff prolific outlines, so common with the Egyptian artists, were exchanged for supple and natural attitudes, groups of persons were given in perspective, and cut in deeper relief than I should have supposed anything but metal could have been worked. I thought it necessary to bring back with me some fragments of

these bas-reliefs, as a specimen to others of what so much surprised me. One cannot help being struck with the little analogy which the greater number of these subjects have with the spot wherein they are immured; it requires the presence of mummies to persuade one's self that these excavations are tombs: I have found here bas-reliefs, representing games, such as rope-dancing; and asses taught to play tricks and to rear on their hind-legs, which are sculptured with all the nature and simplicity which Buffon has shewn in representing the same animals on the canvas.

The plan of these excavations is not less singular; there are some which are so vast and complicated, that one would take them for labyrinths, or subterranean temples. Some of the same people with whom we had just been at war, served me as guides, and the clink of money, that universal language, before which all hatred ceases, especially among the Arabs, had procured me friends with the fugitive inhabitants of Kurnu. Some of these had come to me privately when I was at a distance from our camp, and attended me with great fidelity, we penetrated together these subterranean labyrinths, which indeed resembled by their mysterious passages and windings, the temples constructed for the trials of the initiated. After passing the apartments, adorned in the elegant style that I have just described, we entered long and gloomy galleries, which wind backwards and forwards in numerous angles, and seem to occupy a great extent of ground; they are melancholy, repulsive, and without any decoration; but from time to time, open into other chambers covered with hieroglyphics, and branch out into narrow paths that lead to deep perpendicular pits, which we descend by resting our arms against the sides, and fixing our feet into steps that are cut in the rock. At the bottom of these we find other adorned chambers; and lower still, a new series of perpendicular pits and horizontal chambers, and at last ascending a long flight of steps, we arrived at an open place which we found to be on a level with the chambers we first entered.

An Ingenious Device for doing Good.—An individual in Illinois was anxious to do something for the heathen; he was so poor, however, that he could give but very little. To gratify his benevolent desires, he resorted to the following expedient. He made a small rude box, and cut a hole large enough to admit a penny. He wrote on the box, "For the heathen;" and then carried it from house to house, till he had visited nearly every family in a place which has several thousand inhabitants.—*N. Y. Recorder.*

The Paris Presse states that at a recent session of the French Academy, it was at last determined upon not to give out this year the usual prize for the best poem. It will be remembered the subject they gave out was *Steam*. Of the eighty pieces handed in, two had been selected, and each had an equal number of warm partisans among this learned areopagus. After several sittings and warm discussions, as the partisans of neither would yield or even consent to divide the prize, it was at length voted that neither of the pieces were worthy of the crown, and the same subject has been continued over for the next year.

A large discussion was had in the Academy relative to what is called the Gobart prize, the income of 10,000 francs to be given to the best history connected with that of France. This prize had been awarded to M. Buchon, for his work on the French principalities in Greece and the Morea, during the Crusades. But M. Buchon died before the meeting in which his name was to be announced, and certain members, taking their own interpretation of the will of M. Gobert, pretend that the Academy cannot give this prize of 10,000 francs, except to a living author. The question is still undecided; some looking out for a new candidate, while other members of the Academy maintain that their first decision must be adhered to, and the prize given to crown the memory of the modest and deserving *savant* Buchon.

There has been established in Sevres, near Paris, a public wash house. This establishment is built principally of iron, is new and elegant, and contains all the necessary conveniences. Two large basins, the water of which is constantly renewed, enable two hundred persons to wash at once. The wash-room is arranged with the greatest care; an ironing board, with a ventilator on a new plan, by which the linen is dried in five minutes, assist and complete the whole operation.

The German papers announce that a treaty has been concluded between France and Germany, in reference to works of literature and art. The terms of this treaty have been a long while under discussion by the commissioners of the two countries, and they have agreed upon the essential points. The engagements entered into by the two countries, are upon terms of mutual reciprocity.

The French are about to send out a vessel to South America, to institute a new hydrographical survey of the coast of Panama, from Point Mala to the Bay of Choco. The first soundings of the Pacific side were taken in 1843, by the Danae, and it is now proposed to conclude this important hydrographical labor.

The city of Avignon has voted to erect a statue to Jean Althen, a Persian, who first introduced madder into France about a hundred years since. This plant now yields to France about 20,000 francs a year.

The school for young Egyptians established by Mehemet Ali in Paris has been swelled from 50 to 100 pupils. The Egyptian government is now negotiating for the purchase of some land on which to erect a building for this purpose.

A fop is like a set of new knives and forks; you can't put him to anything useful without taking away all his polish.

Learning is obtained only by labor—it cannot be bought with money; otherwise the rich would be uniformly intelligent.

They are getting names for things very fast. Rascality is now defined as "unfortunate bias towards error."

He who buys what he does not want, will soon want what he cannot buy.

A HOME BESIDE THE HILLS.

I would a farmer's life were mine!

O, for a home beside the hills,—
Among the trees—where flocks recline—
And the pure dew of heaven distills;
Where grateful breezes fan the cheek,
And living blossoms scent the air;
Where vale, and hill, and streamlet speak,
And the Creator's love declare.

For a secluded life I sigh:—

My soul detests the noise, and strife,
The heavy air and dusty sky,
The endless cares of city life:
To mingle with the bustling throng,
I feel my spirit was not made,—
For when I hear the wild-wood song,
Grandeur and love my soul pervade.

I feel at home when I can stray

In sunny glens and dreamy woods,
And see the rippling streams that play
Amid the lonely solitudes:
I love to linger all alone,
And list the music of the breeze;
Sometimes a sweet and mournful tone
It plays among the whispering trees.

Amid the hills I ask:—

'Tis all I ask, O God! of thee,—
That I may in thy sunshine bask,
With skies so pure and winds so free.
Where, night and morning, I can feel
A peace within—a love to all,—
With not a care my joys to steal,
Till thou shall for my spirit call.

The Shoe-Mender of Portsmouth.

One day, in passing along the streets of London, I was arrested by a crowd at a print-shop window. It is perhaps not altogether "respectable" to be seen forming one of such assemblages; but every man has his failings, and one of mine is, to take a peep at any very nice looking prints which the sellers of these articles considerately put in their windows for the public amusement.—On the present occasion, in taking a survey of the print-seller's wares, I was much interested in observing a print which differed considerably from any thing else in the window. Hanging between an opera dancer and a general—both pets of the public—was the representation of an old cobbler sitting professionally in his booth, with a shoe in one hand and his knife in the other, while with spectacles turned up over his brow, and head averted, he was apparently addressing a ragged urchin, who stood beside him with a book. In the back ground was a miscellaneous collection of books, lasts, old shoes, and bird-cages, interspersed with the heads and faces of a crowd of children—the whole forming an unique combination of a school and cobbler's. Beneath was the inscription, "John Pounds and his school." I was, as I have said, interested, and I resolved to know something, if possible of John Pounds and his seminary. On making enquiries accordingly, I discovered, through the agency of a little pamphlet, sold by Green, 50 Newgate street, who John Pounds was, and what kind of a school he conducted.

John Pounds was born of parents in a humble rank of life, in Portsmouth, in the year 1766. In early life, while working with a shipwright in a dockyard, he had the misfortune to have one of his thighs broken, and so put out of joint as to render him a cripple for life. Compelled, from this calamity, to choose a new means of subsistence, he betook himself to the shoe-making craft. The instructions he received in this profession, however, did not enable him to make shoes, and in that branch of the art he was diffident in trying his hand. Contenting himself with the more humble department of mending, he became the tenant of a weather-boarded tenement in St. Mary street in his native town.

John was a good-natured fellow, and his mind was always running on some scheme of benevolence; and, like all other benevolent, self-helpful people, he got enough to do. While still a young man, he was favored with the charge of one of the numerous children of his brother; and, to enhance the value of the gift, the child was a feeble little boy, with his feet overlapping each other, and turned inwards. This poor child soon became an object of so much affection with John, as thoroughly to divide his attention with a variety of tame birds which he kept in his stall. Ingenious as well as kind-hearted, he did not rest till he had made an apparatus of old shoes and leather, which un-

twisted the child's feet, and set him fairly on his legs. The next thing was to teach his nephew how to read, and this he also undertook as a labor of love. After a time, he thought the boy would learn much better if he had a companion—in which, no doubt, he was right, for solitary education is not a good thing—and he invited a poor neighbor to send him his children to be taught. This invitation was followed by others. John acquired a passion for gratuitous teaching, which nothing but the limits of his booth could restrain. "His humble workshop," to follow the language of his memoir, "was about six feet wide, and about eighteen feet in length; in the midst of which he would sit on his stool, with his last or lapstone on his knee, and other implements by his side, going on with his work, and attending at the same time to the pursuits of the whole assemblage; some of whom were reading by his side, writing from his dictation, or showing up their sums; others seated round on forms or boxes on the floor, or on the steps of a small staircase in rear. Although the master seemed to know where to look for each, and to maintain a due command over all, yet so small was the room, and so deficient in the usual accommodations of a school that the scene appeared, to the observer from without, to be a mere crowd of children's heads and faces.

Owing to the limited extent of his room, he often found it necessary to make a selection, from among several subjects or candidates, for his gratuitous instruction; and in such cases always preferred, and prided himself on his taking in hand, what he called "the little blackguards," and taming them. He has been seen to follow such to the town quay, and hold out in his hand to them the bribe of a roasted potato, to induce them to come to school.—When the weather permitted, he caused them to take turns in sitting on the threshold of his front door, and on the little form outside, for the benefit of the fresh air.

His modes of tuition were chiefly of his own devising. Without having ever heard of Pestalozzi, necessity led him into the interrogatory system. He taught the children to read from handbills, and such remains of old school books as he could procure.—Slates and pencils were the only implements for writing, yet a creditable degree of skill was acquired; and in ciphering the Rule of Three and Practice were performed with accuracy. With the very young especially, his manner was particularly pleasant and facetious. He would ask them the names of different parts of their body, make them spell the words, and tell their uses. Taking a child's hand, he would say, "What is this? Spell it." Then slapping it he would say, "What did I do? Spell that." So with the ear and the act of pulling it; and in like manner with other things. He found it necessary to adopt a more strict discipline with

them as they grew bigger, and might have become turbulent; but he invariably preserved the attachment of all. In this way, some hundreds of persons have been indebted to him for all the schooling they have ever had, and which has enabled many of them to fill useful and creditable stations in life, who might otherwise, owing to the temptations attendant on poverty and ignorance, have become burdens on society, or swelled the calendar of crime."

Will the reader credit the fact, that this excellent individual never sought any compensation for these labors, nor did he receive any? Of no note or account, his weather-boarded establishment was like a star radiating light around; but of the good he was doing, John scarcely appeared conscious.—The chief gratification he felt was the occasional visit of some manly soldier or sailor, grown up out of all remembrance, who would call to shake hands and return thanks for what he had done for him in his infancy. At times also he was encouragingly noticed by the local authorities; but we hear not of any marked testimony of their approbation. Had he been a general, and conquered a province, he would doubtless have been considered a public benefactor, and honored accordingly; being only an amateur school-master, and a reclamer from vice, John was allowed to find the full weight of the proverb, that virtue is its own reward. And thus obscurely, known principally to his humble neighbors, did this hero—for was he not a hero of the purest order?—spend a long and useful existence; every selfish gratification being denied, that he might do the more good to others.

On the morning of the first of January, 1839, at the age of seventy-two years, when looking at the picture of his school, which had been lately executed by Mr. Sheaf, he suddenly fell down and expired. His death was felt severely. "The abode of contented and peaceful frugality became at once a scene of desolation. He and his nephew had made provision on that day for what was to them a luxurious repast. On the little mantelpiece remained uncooked a mugful of fresh sprats, on which they were to have regaled themselves in honor of the new year. The children were overwhelmed with consternation and sorrow;—some of them came to the door next day, and cried because they could not be admitted; and for several succeeding days the younger ones came, two or three together, looked about the room, and not finding their friend, went away disconsolate." John Pounds was as he had wished, called away without bodily suffering, from his useful labors. He has gone to await the award of Him who has said, "Inasmuch as ye did it unto one of the least of these ye did it unto me.—*Chambers' Edinb. Journal.*

Bonaparte's house, at Longwood, St. Helena, is now a barn—the room he died in a stable—and where the imperial corpse lay in state, may be found a machine for grinding corn.

DEAD LETTER OFFICE.

Among the places which I have visited, is the *Dead Letter Office* in the Post Office Department. It is certainly an interesting part of that building. You will be surprised at some facts I learned there. The business of the dead letter office alone employs four clerks all the time. One opens the bundles containing the letters sent to Washington from the several post offices, after they have advertised, and no owner found for them. He passes the letters over to the other clerks, who open them all, to see if they contain any thing valuable. If they do not, they are thrown on to the pile on the floor. No time is allowed to read them, as that would be impossible, without a great addition of help. The number of dead letters returned to the General Post Office is astonishingly large. You will be surprised when I tell you that it is *fourteen hundred thousand* a year, and under the cheap postage system is increasing! Hence it requires swift hands to open so large a number, without stopping to read a word. Any one who is so silly as to write a mess of nonsense to an imaginary person, supposing it will be ultimately read by some one, may save himself the trouble hereafter. He may depend upon it, not a word will be likely to be read of the letter, unless he encloses something valuable in it; and that would be paying too dear for so small a whistle. At the end of each quarter, the letters that have been opened having accumulated to a huge mass, and having been in the meantime stowed into bags, are carried out on the plains, and there consumed in a bonfire. The huge bags make five or six cart loads each quarter.

The letters containing anything valuable or in fact, any matter enclosed—are passed over to a fourth clerk, who occupies a separate room for the purpose, and there are canvassed by this gentleman. It is very interesting to examine the heterogeneous materials of this room, that have been extracted from letters, and accumulating for years. Here you see the singular matters that are sometimes transported through the Post Office.—The amount of moneys, that at various times has been found in letters, is very large. When any thing of value, as money, drafts, &c., is found, the rule is, to return it to the post office, whence it came, and the postmaster of that office must advertise it, or use any other means best calculated to find the owner. If all his efforts fail, he returns it to the General Office, and it is labelled and filed away. Sometimes as much as \$300 are found in a week in dead letters? I think within this month several hundreds have been found. An iron chest is kept for the purpose of these depositories. In looking over the files in that chest, I was astonished at the amount of money, there, and the large sums contained in some of the letters. Some single letters containing \$50, \$40, \$10, and down to \$1. One letter contained a £10 note—very

likely the property of some poor emigrant, intended for his wife or children, who made a mistake in sending it, and no owner could be found.

Among this money is a good deal of counterfeit. The letters are all labelled, not only with the sums, but also whether containing counterfeit or good money.—There were many bad small bills, scattered through the piles. In one case there was a bad half eagle—in another were two letters, each containing \$300 counterfeit money! It was on some New York Bank, new, and very nicely done—and was, no doubt, the remittance of one counterfeiter to another—who had been in the meantime apprehended, or was suspicious he was watched, and hence had been too cunning to call for the wicked deposit of his confederate. In the strong box, also, was a box of change, of all kinds, and a large string of rings of various fancies and values, taken from the dead letters. Many a love token of this modest kind, enveloped in a letter couched in the most honied words, and intended in the mind of the writer, for the dearest girl in the universe, had instead of reaching its interesting destination, brought up in the dead letter office, passed through the practical hands of these cold, grey-haired clerks, who never stopped to read the tender effusion that cost so much raking of the heart-strings—and the delicate pledge of affection had been tossed into the iron chest, instead of encircling the taper finger of “the love” for whom it was purchased.

But passed out of the chest, the matters that meet your eye on the shelves and in the cases are equally interesting.—Here are books, and ribbons and gloves, and hosiery, and a thousand other things. I saw one specimen of a most splendid ribbon, of several yards, that seemed very much out of place here, when it was intended to adorn the bonnet of some lady. A package lay near that had not been opened. It was from England.—The postage was \$8 63. It had been refused at the office where sent, because of its enormous postage, and was sent to the dead office in the due course of time. Now, said the Superintendent, I will show you what valueless things are sent through the mails, in comparison to their expense. I do not know what is in this, but we will see. So he opened it, and behold, it contained about a yard of coarse cloth, like crash, worth perhaps a shilling which had been sent to some dry goods house in this country, as a specimen of the manufacture of the article, by some factory in England. Of course, the postage being thirty times its value, it was refused by those to whom it was directed. I saw *two night caps* that were taken from a letter only a few days since. If the poor fellow to whom they were sent does not sleep in a night cap until he gets these, his head will be cold. It is impossible for the Department to attend to finding owners for the comparatively valueless things that are re-

ceived as night caps, ribbons, garters, stockings, stays, &c., &c., and they are therefore thrown into the receptacle of ‘things lost to earth’ and a pretty “kettle of fish” there is in that receptacle, you may depend.

In the cases, arranged and labelled for the purpose, are the legal documents found in letters. These are numerous and run back for a long term of years. They are most carefully preserved. The beneficial policy of this preservation has been often illustrated, and most strikingly so, only the other day. A gentleman in a distant State wrote the Superintendent that some seven or eight years ago a large package of most valuable papers had been lost through the Post Office. They involved the right to a large estate. If he could not find them, he would be irretrievably ruined, and begged him to search in the Department for them. He did so. He told me that the first case he opened, under a pile of other paper, he saw a large package, answering the description: he took it out, and it was the very papers wanted. They had slept there quietly for years. The postage was \$10—and they had originally, by some mistake, failed of their rightful owner. The package had been carefully preserved, and the owner was saved.

I have given you but a faint description, after all, of this interesting portion of the General Post Office operations.—My letter, however, has reached a prudent length, and I must stop. The gentleman who superintends this wing is Jere. O'Brien, Esq. of Brunswick, in our country. He has been here about ten months. To his politeness I was much indebted, in my observations. I have heard his gentlemanly deportment spoken of by others in this connection. He is a fine specimen of the New England gentleman, and I am happy to record his success in obtaining a place in this Department.—*Portland Argus.*

THE FEMALE CHARACTER.

From a Sermon by Dr. SPRING.

The female character, my fair auditors, is destined to rise, and not destined to fall. Unless new principles of the divine government remain to be disclosed, not yet developed in the word of God, or in his providence, the purpose of his love towards mankind cannot be accomplished without a very sensible elevation of the female sex. Females are yet to become some of the most distinguished instruments in the emancipation of the world, from the thralldom of ignorance and sin. On females themselves devolves in no small degree, the duty of elevating their own sex. How they are to do this, it is no difficult matter to determine. It is by carrying a more thoroughly finished mind and heart into the various spheres of usefulness peculiar to their sex and station,

and there unfolding all the patience, self-denial and energy of their character. I would have females ambitious of usefulness, of the best and most unexceptionable kind. Unsanctified attainments, I know, can only increase the pernicious and corrupting influence of a woman; but when combined with moral and religious culture, it may be employed with consummate advantage to the church and the world.

It is the moral and religious culture, which you have assembled this evening, my friends, to patronise, and of which I desire to be particularly the advocate. I address you as a society bound and banded together by the love of Jesus Christ, and for the most noble and sacred of purposes—that of *sending the gospel to the destitute settlements of our extended country*. Never did woman appear more elevated than in this calling. Well may the speaker congratulate himself on being the advocate of female piety on such an occasion as this. Woman has been little else than a prisoner, or a slave, where the celestial influence of a pure religion has knocked off her chains and proclaimed emancipation from her servitude. And woman, defenceless woman, needs the influence and support of piety. In all her fears and trials, in all her disappointment and fatigue, how frail, how baseless, the superstructure of her hopes, if the Eternal God is not her refuge. But with the God of Jacob for her help, how does poor, feeble woman triumph over the trials of apostacy, and the helplessness of her condition, and throw into the shades of oblivion, the patience, submission, and confidence of the stronger sex. I have often thought, that piety has been to women what it never has been to men. And how has its matchless power been evinced, especially in the storms of keen adversity! Many a time, while the quivering spirit of her hardy compeer has been shattered by the tempest, and when in painful apprehension, I have looked to see her frail form sink beneath the billows; has her heaven-invigorated countenance faced the storm, and her buoyant heart been fixed, trusting in the Lord. O! my young female friends, lift your youthful eye up to the Father of Lights, and however dark and heavy the clouds that may be about him, you shall descry some “bow of promise” around his throne. Heavy clouds and thick darkness may indeed be there. The days may be few that are crowned with peace and joy. But O! there is every thing to cheer the mournful vale. Those indications of grace

and faithfulness shall never withdraw their encircled lustre from the throne of God.—Jesus Christ hath abolished death, and brought life and immortality to light, and that light shall never fade, that immortality shall never die.

MUSICAL INSTRUMENT INVENTORS.

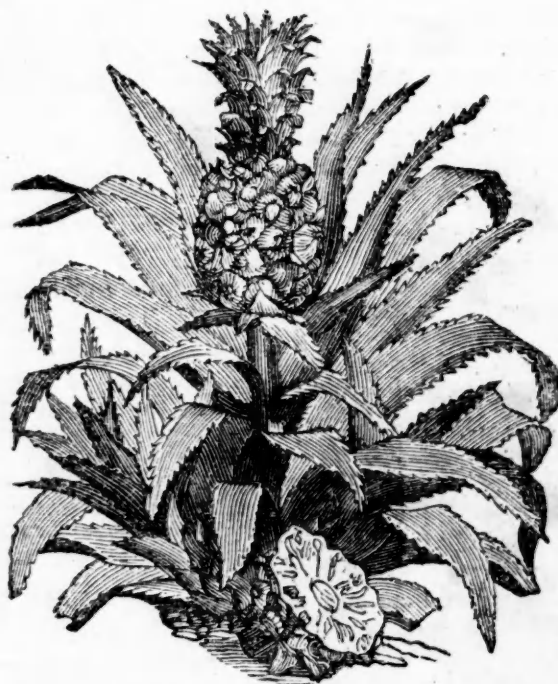
1. The first upright harpsichord was made by Shudi, about the year 1770.
2. The first horizontal grand piano-forte was made by Bacchus in 1777.
3. The first organized piano-forte was made at the manufactory of Longman and Broderip, now Clementi, Collard & Co.
4. The first upright grand piano-forte was made by Robert Stoddart, in 1780.
5. The first cabinet piano-forte was made by Southwell, in 1790.—*Musical Review*.

MUSIC AND MONEY.

A punster, asked by a musician whether he was not a lover of *harmony*, replied “Yes, but I prefer it when it is abridged, for then it is *money*; and that, my friend, is the better half of it. I have no objection to *your notes*, but I like those of the Bank of England much better: you may make good tunes, but those make infinitely the best of tunes.” How so? that bank notes are good things I allow; but pray, what tune will they make?” “The best tune in the world—a *for-tune*.”

MADRIGALS.

Madrigals were brought to perfection about the latter end of the sixteenth century, by Luca Marenzio. It was by this cheerful species of vocal composition, that the English were the first taught to admire the music of Italy. In 1588, M. Younge, published here some Italian madrigals, with a literal translation. The editor, an Italian merchant, having frequent opportunities of obtaining through the medium of his correspondents, the newest compositions from the Continent, had them frequently performed at his house in London. His publication, entitled *Musica Transalpina*, consisted of selections from Palestrina, Marenzio, and other celebrated masters, and inspired a passion for madrigals, which afterwards became so prevalent in this country, that Younge’s collection was in the hands of every one, and was celebrated by Peacham, forty years after its first appearance. The most esteemed English madrigalists were Thomas Weelkes, George Kirbye, John Wilbye, and Thomas Bennet; all of whom flourished in the sixteenth century.—*English Mag.*



THE PINEAPPLE.

There are few objects in nature, even among the fruits themselves, which excite more pleasure than this general favorite, although one of the most esteemed fruits, a production of the tropics, and one of the largest, it is happily one of those which may be longest kept after being plucked, and therefore most easily transported without injury, to foreign countries. We are well acquainted with pineapples, through all those parts of the Union which are easily accessible to commerce; and, since the multiplication of steamboats and railroads, foreign luxuries find their way far into the interior. Of course, in the print above we present many of our readers with a familiar object, but, we doubt not, a very favorite one. However, as the value of a thing is often greatly increased in our eyes by an increase of knowledge respecting it, we may perhaps render the pineapple a thing still more interesting to some of our readers, by mentioning hereafter a few facts respecting it not universally known.

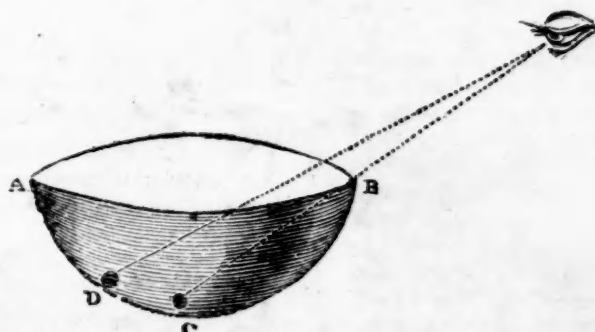
The pineapple plant resembles the several others in general appearance.

Several varieties of the pineapple, brought from different islands, and familiarly known to dealers and many purchasers in New York, are by no means uncommon. The largest and fairest in appearance are not the most rich and delicate. Those of the greatest size generally have a thick core, which occu-

pies the centre, and forms a considerable part of the whole, while the flavor of the pulpy part is deficient. The little Nassau pineapples, on the contrary, which are among the smallest to be found, and are distinguishable partly by the number of buds which cluster round its base, are not of the neat conical form, or smooth outside, which please the eye, yet contain a mass of the most juicy pulp, without core, and have a flavor most rich and delicate. These are highly prized for preserving by all connoisseurs; and bear a high price, though for very good reasons.

THE LITTLE GARDENER.

A boy in Massachusetts sent to the Treasurer of the Board, a few days ago, thirty five cents. Perhaps the children who read the Dayspring, would like to know how he came to send just such a sum. It happened in this way. He reads the Dayspring too; and last spring he saw it stated in the little paper that thirty-five cents would keep a child at one of the mission schools in Ceylon a whole year. He was quite anxious to obtain that amount in some way, by his own exertions, and apply it to this purpose. His mother told him she would buy all he could raise on a small piece of land which she had given to him in the garden. He became very much engaged in cultivating his little patch of ground; and, by raising radishes, cabbages, &c., he succeeded in obtaining thirty-five cents. And this money he has now sent to support a child one year in a mission school at Ceylon.—*New York Recorder.*



HOW TO MAKE EIGHTEEN PENCE WITH A SIXPENCE.

An old, but very pleasing little trick, with which many of our readers must be familiar, is represented in this print. We introduce it here not for the purpose of explaining the cause of the illusion, but with the hope of inducing some of our subscribers to send us a written explanation.

A B is the rim of a bowl, and C an object lying at the bottom of it. Let the server look into the bowl from such a position on one side, that the edge of the bowl will conceal the object when empty, and then pour in water: the object will appear in sight as at D. It will also appear of about double its real size. If the vessel be transparent, as a glass tumbler, by depressing the head slightly, the object may be seen in its real situation, and of its actual size, below the brim, and again magnified above it. Thus a sixpence will look like a shilling and a sixpence, a quarter of a dollar like a quarter and a half dollar, &c., &c.

This is a pretty thing to amuse a party of children, with for the first time; but the cause is a certain scientific principle, which every grown person cannot readily explain. We invite, therefore, our readers to send us explanations of their own, and request them, for the sake of improving their own minds, to aim at fulness, clearness, and conciseness in their style. We shall hope to receive more than one communication of this kind worthy of publication.

We may remark, however, to encourage the investigation of this subject, that the phenomenon is one of frequent occurrence, and sometimes important to be understood for our convenience, and it may be for our safety. Who has not been deceived about the depth of a stream, pond, or lake, even when he could not distinctly see the bottom; and also about the size and position of

stones, rocks, &c., beneath the surface? Objects appear larger than they really are, and the depth of water less than it is. We should be careful how we venture in. Many a person has found himself or his horse out of his depth when too late. If we know how to judge, and to guard against deceptive appearances, we may sometime or other avoid the inconvenience of a plunge into a deep water, or an exposure to drowning.

In the above print, as may be easily seen, the sixpence, or other object, would seem at once larger and nearer the surface than it really was. And so, whenever we look in a slanting direction into clear and smooth water, every thing beneath appears to us magnified and out of its actual place. The question returns to us: Why? What is the cause? And, as we said before, no one can explain it without an acquaintance with certain facts, embraced in the science of sight, called optics. To learn the matter well, we must know the laws of light, with which, we hope, many of our readers are already acquainted.

"But how can we find the time to learn so many things, to study so many books, to observe and remember so great a variety of facts?" We think we hear some of our young readers ask, But how can you learn so many games as you play, with all the rules and practices, and learn them so thoroughly that you regard them in the midst of your gay and lively companions? How can you possibly move your fingers so rapidly, yet so correctly, on your piano, and at the same time sing, or perhaps converse? How can our city loungers bear in mind all the names of their acquaintances, and of the minutest parts of their dresses, ornaments, &c., so as to speak of what such an one wore on such a day, what was ill arranged or out of fashion, new or unbecoming?



THERMOMETER.

Continued from page 114.

Our common thermometers are very convenient instruments, being easily made of different sizes, and adapted to various purposes. They are often made almost as small as the figure above, yet are sufficiently accurate for many of the purposes of a traveller. And how many pleasing experiments might we all make on our journies, and in our daily walks, even with so simple and diminutive an instrument! We might compare the temperature of a stream or spring with that of the atmosphere, which differ in various ways and different degrees at different seasons. The temperature of plants, the earth at various depths, and the changes of that of the atmosphere during storms, &c., at successive hours of the night, all these are worthy of attention. A few moments of attention to such subjects now and then, will also have an useful effect upon the mind, and prepare the experimenter to regard with some interest the reports of scientific men on matters of a corresponding nature.

The old *Air-thermometers* were made by filling the upper and closed end of a glass tube with air, while the other was kept plunged in a vessel of colored fluid, or connected with a glass globe containing the same. Heat would expand the air, and drive down the fluid, the surface of which would show the temperature on the scale, after it had been graduated on some plan corresponding in principle with that hinted at in our last number.

Alcohol-thermometers were recommended by the Florentine Academy in the seventeenth century. A little colored spirits of wine was enclosed in a close glass tube with a bulb, like a Fahrenheit; but it was difficult to find

a fixed point at which to commence the graduation, especially as alcohol varies much in purity. Sir Isaac Newton proposed the boiling and freezing-points of water, after Halley had proposed to place the thermometers in pits, to graduate them by the temperature of the earth. The former plan prevailed.

The *Oil-Thermometer* was next invented by Newton, and tried, but soon abandoned. Oil expands and contracts with heat and cold; but experiment proved it to be ill adapted to use.

Self-registering Thermometers are usually made double and horizontal: that is, two are fastened side-by-side on a stand which keeps them in a horizontal position. A small button is placed in each. In one it is pushed forward by the fluid, and left at the farthest point to which it extends: in the other it is drawn back and left at the lowest point. This is effected by the shape of the button. In the former the pointed end is outward, and in the latter it is inward. Such thermometers will show the highest and the lowest temperatures which have been experienced during the day, month or years since they were last adjusted.

Women of the Revolution.—A bill has been before the Pennsylvania Legislature for granting a pension to an old lady named Eve Cary, of Westmorland county; and from the following fact she richly merits it.

It appears that during a tremendous attack made upon the Hannastown fort, in Westmorland county, by a large party of Indians, British and Tories, in the summer of 1778, Eve Cary distinguished herself by extraordinary bravery.

The garrison were frightened and about to yield, but Eve declared they should not *give up*. She inspired the men with courage and the women with fortitude, assisted in loading the guns, made bullets for the men, and by her active exertions contributed largely in successfully resisting the murderous assault, by which many were saved from a horrible butchery. Eve's father and two brothers had been killed by the Indians only a few days before the attack on Hannastown fort. Her conduct throughout showed that she possessed the most indomitable courage, a quality however, by no means rare among the women of the Revolutionary times. Eve is now old, infirm and poor.

The dwarf Geoffry Hudson, was three feet nine inches high, and Count Borowtasky two feet and four inches. See vol. 1, p. 471.

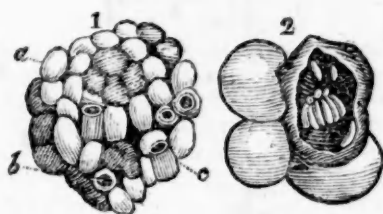


Fig 1 a. Cocoon.
b. The receptacles for eggs.
c. Honey pots.

THE HUMBLE BEE'S HONEYCOMB.

The Humble bee is an insect with which we are all familiar from our childhood. Its industry excites our attention, and appears no less persevering and creditable than that of the more popular Honey bee: while the greater secrecy it observes in fixing its nest, and the boldness it shows in defending it when invaded, place it on a level with its smaller neighbor in every respect, except utility and docility: for the humble bee is not a domestic insect, and it is unable to add anything important for the use of man. In one respect, however, it surpasses the honey bee even as a model of industry: for all the members of the community are regular laborers.

The following remarks we extract from an anonymous writer.

The *Humble Bee*, so well known to us, may be truly termed a villager. The community, which numbers from twenty to three hundred, consists of females of two sizes, the very largest, and the small ones; males which are stingless, and neuters. Here there is no queen attended by a numerous guard, enjoying the privilege of doing nothing except laying eggs,—nor idle males, subsisting upon the fruits of the industry of others; but, whether male, female, or neuter, they all share alike the labor.

It is very probable, that, alone and unattended, the female lays the foundation of the future little village, and that its inhabitants are all her own offspring. The hive bee must have a ready-made excavation for the reception of its comb—the humble bee raises its dwelling from the foundation. There is nothing imposing in its exterior: on the contrary, a tuft of moss, six or seven inches high, and buried seemingly in a clod, conceals all that is dear to these little creatures. A closer inspection shows, that the mossy filaments are carefully interlaced, and so nicely put together, that not a grain of dirt is intermingled with its texture. This light vault, although two or three inches thick, is scarcely capable of sheltering the young from the wind and rain; and to remedy this defect, its inner or concave surface is lined with a species of

cement, which effectually excludes the wet. If a nest be watched, one of its inhabitants will be soon seen to bury itself in a mossy hole, perhaps a foot from the nest itself. This is the entrance of a covered and secret way, leading to the inside of the habitation. Should the curiosity of the observer overcome his reluctance to destroy the patient labor of the humble bee, he will have an opportunity of observing the mode in which it works. The nest is always placed in the midst of the material form which it is to be constructed, and Reameur never was able to detect any of its inhabitants bringing moss from a distance: rather than do so, the bee repairs the vault with material taken from the covered way, and even choosing to do without it altogether, rather than forage for moss. In some instances they seem to be led by instinct to vary their proceedings. Thus, Mr. P. Huber, having placed a nest of humble bees under a bell-shaped glass, stuffed the interval between its bottom and the irregular surface on which it rested with a linen cloth: the bees, finding themselves in a situation where no moss was to be obtained, tore this cloth thread by thread, carded it with their feet into a felted mass, and applied it to the same uses as moss, for which it proved an excellent substitute. Some other humble bees tore the cover of a book with which he had closed the top of a box which contained them, and made use of the detached morsels in covering their nests.

They divide their labor in a curious manner. A bee settles on a tuft of moss, its head being turned from the nest, and its tail towards it; with its teeth and its first two legs it divides and disentangles the filaments, and transfers them to the two middle legs; the second pair seize and push them to the third pair, and these thrust them as far behind the tail of the bee as they can reach, by which means the moss is advanced towards the place where it is proposed to build the nest, by a space which somewhat exceeds the whole length of the body of one bee; another bee, placed in a line with the first, receives the ball of material with its fore-legs, and like the first, transfers it the whole length of its body; and thus four or five of these insects, stationed in a row, share time and labor in conveying the material for building, on the same principle that Irish laborers may be seen transferring their wheelbarrows from one to another.

The inside of the nest contains a comb or combs, which show no trace of the geometrical principles recognised in the workmanship of the hive bee. The upper surface of each comb is irregularly convex, its under octave, and it is composed of oval eminences placed against each other (*fig. 1, a.*) These are not cells for the young, as in the comb of the hive-bee, but cocoons spun by the larva before its final metamorphosis. By the sides of these oval bodies, and sometimes covering and concealing them, are deposited ill-shaped

masses (*fig. 1, b,*) which constitute the chief object of the labor of these rustics. These are the receptacles for the eggs of the female, and contain not one egg only, but sometimes as many as thirty eggs (*fig. 2.*) They are filled with a species of bee-bread, formed of the pollen of flowers, moistened and prepared by the bee, so that the young worm, when hatched, is surrounded with a mass of matter which serves the double purpose of food and raiment, nourishing and keeping it from external impressions. Besides these receptacles of eggs, the nest contains also open cylindrical vessels, which are filled with excellent honey, destined for the common supply. The humble bee, by-the-way, has a much finer instinct in discovering the nectar of flowers than the hive-bee; for in many flowers the nectary is concealed from the hive-bee; the humble bee, however, finds it out, and taps it in the same manner as a butler gets at the contents of a cask. In this case, the hive-bee, like the cunning inhabitant of a city, allows the rustic to gather the treasure, and then waylays and robs it of its load.

Huber relates a curious story to illustrate the good nature and generous disposition of the humble bee. In a time of scarcity, some hive bees, after pillaging the nest of the humble bee, took entire possession of it; one or two, however, of the latter, still lingered about their old habitation, and went into the fields to collect honey, which they brought home; the hive bees surrounded, licked them, and presented to them their proboscis, never once showing the sting. By these means, Huber is of opinion, that the humble bee was fairly wheedled out of its stock of honey: these manœuvres lasted three weeks.

Their affection for their young is remarkable. When about to lay her eggs, the female is obliged to watch with the utmost care, and to drive off the workers, who greedily endeavor to devour them. Kirby thinks this instinct is bestowed upon the insect for the purpose of keeping the population within due bounds. For eight or nine hours the cell containing her precious charge is anxiously watched by the mother; but after this period, the desire to devour the egg ceases to animate the workers, and they now appear as assiduous in preserving, as they were before eager to destroy, the young. They know to the hour when the food is consumed by the grub, and introduce a fresh supply through a small hole made in the receptacle, which is then carefully closed. As the grubs increase in size, the cell which contained them becomes too small; and by their exertions to be more at ease its thin sides are split. The workers, which stand constantly by to watch when their services may be wanted, apply a patch of wax to fill up these breaches as fast as they are made. The cells are thus daily increased in size, in order to accommodate the growing grub. When the larva is about to change into the pupa, the workers cluster over the cocoon, and thus cherish the

tender inhabitant with that heat which is necessary to its existence. Mr. P. Huber put a dozen humble bees under a glass case, and gave them a piece of comb composed of ten silken cocoons, so uneven that it had no foundation on which it could rest firmly. The bees were sorely disquieted, as they could not, on account of the unsteadiness of the comb, cluster on the young. Their affection suggested, however, an ingenious expedient. Several of them mounted upon the comb, and fixing their hindermost feet on its edge, and the foremost on the table, they succeeded in rendering the mass sufficiently steady to allow their comrades to cluster on the cocoons. For three days sets relieved each other; at the end of which time they had prepared wax enough to build pillars to fix the comb. By some accident these pillars were displaced, when the affectionate creatures resorted a second time to the same means, and assumed the same constrained posture. At last compassionating their distress, Huber did that for them which they had been endeavoring so earnestly to do for themselves. It has been very naturally asked, "If, in this instance, these little animals were not guided by a process of reasoning?" If this question be answered in the negative, it would be difficult to show the difference between reason and instinct: for it may be assumed as a certainty, that the circumstances under which our rustics were placed had never occurred to them during the course of their short existence, not probably to ten of their species since the creation.

There are some species of bees which lead a solitary life, and seem to exercise a mechanical art. The first of these performs the labors of a carpenter, the next those of a mason, and the third may be termed the upholsterer. The wood boring or carpenter bee is almost as large as the humble bee, not so downy, but more deeply colored. In spring it seeks out some old post or withered-part of a tree, to begin its habitation—sedulously shunning the sappy and green wood, which probably from its toughness would not suit its purpose. The position, as well as the quality of the substance is also taken into consideration; for it will not select a piece of wood placed in a spot where the sun rarely shines. As a piece of dry rotten wood is found, our workman begins to bore in an oblique direction; and then, after having gone to a certain depth, the direction of the cavity is changed, and is now continued in the wood on an axis perpendicular to the horizon. This is a work which occupies our laborers not a few hours, but weeks. For days together the carpenter-bee may be seen going in and out of the hole and shovelling out the sawdust, which has resulted from its patient labor. The cavity is from twelve to fifteen inches in length, and often broad enough to admit the forefinger of a man. A bee will make two or three.—See vol. 1. p. 383.

THE PRESIDENT'S HOUSE.

A Washington correspondent of the Boston Evening Journal gives the following description of the White House.

It is a building 170 feet in front, and 86 feet deep. It is built of white freestone, in the Ionic style of architecture. It was commenced in the year 1782—the design was furnished by Capt. Hoban, of this city, and is said to be copied from a mansion in Dublin. It appears to me to be very similar to the house of the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland, in the Phoenix Park, Dublin. It is beautifully situated on a slight eminence in the centre of a grass plat of about 28 acres, which is enclosed by iron palisades on a stone basement. The *coup d'œil* of the mansion is noble and impressive, and the south front commands an excellent view of the Capitol, and the best part of the city—the river and Potomac bridge, and of the opposite Virginia and Maryland shores.

The principal entrance, or north front, opens upon a semi circular paved and gravelled carriage drive, the whole surrounded by iron palisades and kept in excellent order—not a sprig of grass to be seen upon it. It is ornamented with an imposing portico supported by three Ionic columns in front, and projecting with three others, which projection admits of carriages being driven under for the purpose of their company alighting under shelter in rainy weather. The middle space is appropriated for pedestrian visitors, and the steps from both lead to a broad platform before the door of entrance.

You enter into a spacious hall of some fifty feet, finished simply with plain stuccoed walls; you pass through a row of Ionic columns in composition, excellent imitations of white marble. In the passage which these divide from the hall are one or two busts, and here the band sits on levee nights. A door in the centre admits you into the reception room, an oval saloon of forty by thirty feet, ornamented with mirrors, and covered with plain gold leaf paper, with deeply gilded borders. It is richly decorated with marble chimney piece and tables, crimson silk hangings, a rich carpet, and a magnificent cut glass chandelier.

On each side of this room and communicating with it is a square room of thirty feet or thereabout, finished in the same style, with chairs of antique patterns, and ottomans, and couches of the richest coverings. This suite of apartments is devoted to the reception of visitors on parade day. To

the west of these is the "company dining room," a spacious apartment of forty by thirty feet—and stowed away in a snug corner is the "family dining room," where the President eats his mutton in peace, and tries to unbend his mind from the cares or office, office-seekers, and official diners, to the enjoyment of domestic comfort. It is just what a family dining room should be—a place sacred to cozy dinners and naps afterwards.

These two apartments, though handsomely furnished, are on a lesser scale of grandeur than the former ones. They are hung with rich paper with gilt borders; between the two dinner rooms is a private stair entrance for family use; and store room, china closets, &c., in abundance.

On the east end of the mansion is the celebrated "East room," which extends the whole length of the building with windows to the north and south, and a large glass door to the east, leading to the terrace roof of the offices. This room is eighty by forty feet, and twenty-two feet high; it is finished with handsome stuccoed cornice, and is fitted up in a splendid manner. When surveyed by night, lighted up with its chandeliers and brackets, its appearance is perfectly dazzling. The walls are covered with white and silver paper. It has four chimney pieces of black marble, with Italian front of black and gold, and ornamental grates; each mantel is surmounted with a splendid mirror of about eight feet high by four and a half feet wide; the frames which enclose them are masterpieces of art. Over each mantle is also a pair of lamps of ten lights, bronzed and gilt, with rows of glittering drops drooping round an artificial fountain. Each also bears a pair of French vases, richly gilt and painted, with glass shades and flowers.

Suspended from the ceiling are three magnificent chandeliers, capable of holding eighteen lights each, the sockets for the candles being of cut glass in gilt mountings, each also has a number of gilt bracket lights of five candles. Under the centre chandelier stands a round table of exquisite workmanship, of Italian black and gold slabs, and each pair is filled with a table corresponding with the round table, with splendid lamps upon each of them.—The floor is covered with a beautiful Brussels carpet containing about five hundred yards. The curtains are of a light blue merino with yellow draperies. The couches, squabs, &c., are covered with cushions

of the richest satins, and were sent from France by Mr. Jefferson.

The principal stairs to the left of the entrance hall, lead the visitor into a spacious ante-room, from the south windows of which the eye rests on a splendid prospect; ascending a few steps you find yourself in a large chamber—the President's cabinet room, about forty feet wide, and finished in a style equal to the lower rooms. The room next to this is occupied by the President's private secretary, and the one directly opposite by the private secretary who signs the President's name to patents.

The apartment immediately adjoining is used as a reading room, where the different journals sent to the President are filed and placed upon stands for the convenience of the President and his family, and those who may be waiting for an audience with him. The other chambers are appropriated to family purposes.

The garden or south front is variegated by having a rusticated basement story under the Ionic order and a fine semi-circular projecting colonade of six columns.—The entrance to the "White House" is through two gateways of stone, at the north or main entrance. The grounds near the mansion are laid out in gravelled walks: trees and shrubs are planted in clumps and lines; and ornamental ever-greens and flowers. A portion of the reservation allotted to this building extending south of the walls some distance beyond the Tiber, has not yet been enclosed, and lies waste.

There is a rustic gateway on the east of the square of freestone, in the form of an arch, with a large weeping willow on each side of the entrance. It was formerly said by the lady of a President, while occupying the house, on being congratulated on her elevation, "I don't know as there is much cause for congratulation. The President of the United States generally comes in at the iron gate, and goes out at the weeping willows."

THE OLD AGE OF WILDERSPIN.

It is impossible to exaggerate the good that has been done by Wilderspin. He taught the art of training infants, by kindness and in play, to every corner of the land. The schools which he organized have become local model schools from which others were copied, and Normal schools where teachers were trained.

And the little creatures have in not a few cases been missionaries of human feeling and moral principle to their parents. Men and women have caught habits of tidiness and a

sense of decorum from the example and imperfect lisping of their babes.

The employment of his life was to found and organize Infant Schools, asking little for his trouble, and paying agents to assist him.

The rationale of remuneration for labor is as yet ill understood in this world of ours.

This, we regret to say, there is imminent danger may be the lot of Wilderspin.

CRADLE CIVILIZATION.

Sonnet, on reading the appeal for Wilderspin, in last Spectator.

The "leading men" in science or in art,

Those whom the giddy thoughtless world
deems great—

The merchant kings, who throng the city's
mart—

The babbling senators, who rule the state—

The very queen herself, who moves apart

In loftier sphere, while crowds her word
await—

All these can sway the actions, not the heart;

They can but govern, cannot educate,

This is their office high, who would obey

His word who was the truth, the life, the
way—

"Bring little children to me, while ye may."

Blest is such greatness; with sweet psaltery

Do infant voices wing their way on high,

Answered by angel choirs beyond the ethereal
sky.

W. J.

THE GOVERNMENT SCHOOL OF DESIGN.

From the central school at Somerset House, an annual report of the managing council is issued, giving a general account of the proceedings of each school, the progress of the pupils, financial statements, and other matters worthy of consideration.

The school at Somerset House was "originally established as a school of design in ornamental art, for the special purpose of teaching its application to manufactures;" and a systematic plan of instruction was adopted, by which the students were divided into elementary drawing and other classes, having reference to the particular objects of their studies. A certain position in the school is assigned to them on entrance, from which they work gradually onwards, commencing with elementary drawing in outline, which they are not permitted to leave until they can draw with correctness; the next step is to the class for shading, at first from the flat, so as to educate skill in the use of the chalk: after which they pass to drawing from casts, modelling, the study of color, chiaro oscuro, water colors, and painting from nature; to this succeed drawing the figure, perspective, and the highest class in which is acquired a knowledge of "the history, principles, and practice of ornamental design, and its application to the various processes of manufacture, includ-

ing the study of oil, tempera, fresco, encaustic, or wax painting; and the practice of various branches of decorative art."

The fees of admission to the central school are four shillings per month for the morning classes, and two shillings per month for the evening; the hours of attendance being, for five days in the week, from ten till three in the one case, and from half past six until nine p. m. in the other; thus giving those whose occupations prevent their attendance in the day, an opportunity of doing so after working hours. The fees at the branch school at Spitalfields are just half of those paid respectively at the central establishment for the same period of study; and the subscription to the female school is not more than two shillings monthly, for which their course of instruction includes, in connexion with that already detailed, "the practice of pattern drawing and designing, for those branches of industry which are most suited to the pursuits of females—such as lace, embroidery, &c."

No pupil under the age of twelve is admitted.

The report for the present year proves "that schools of design, as the means of obtaining improvement in the production of ornamental art in this country, are very highly estimated throughout our commercial communities; and that there appears to exist in the minds of all who are most competent to judge, and most interested in the prosperity of our national manufactures, a decided conviction of the practical importance of continuing and extending the instruction which it is the object of schools of design to impart"—there being an average monthly increase of 33 in the attendance throughout the year, with a corresponding augmentation of the total amount of subscriptions.

The pupils are expected to provide themselves with the requisite drawing materials at their own expense; but this is compensated for by the free use of a library connected with the schools being afforded to them; of which we read that "the utility of small lending libraries, in educating ornamentists, is found to be highly appreciated in all the schools established by the council."

This object is further effected by access to the works of art contained in the schools; among them are casts of the most important Greek sculptures; busts, masks, and portions of statues; examples of alto and basso-relievo from Greek, Roman, and middle-age monuments; architectural ornament of every style and era; specimens of Byzantine decoration; Gothic enrichments; and a very extensive collection of engraved and lithographed drawings."

Real specimens of various kinds of ornamental manufactures and decorative work, are found to be indispensably requisite, both for teachers and learners, in the education of practical ornaments. With this conviction, the council have already procured, as the commencement of a more important collection,

some very useful and valuable specimens of this nature, chiefly from Germany, France and Italy, consisting of patterns of stained paper-hangings, rich embroidered silks, and tissues of silk and glass, printed calicoes, wood-carving, ornaments of lacquered embossed metal, models in papier maché, imitations of antique stained glass from Nuremberg, iron castings in panel work, fancy earthen-ware, enameled tiles, and several examples of decorative painting in tempera, enamel, fresco, encaustic, &c., including some valuable colored tracings from fresco ornaments in Mantua."

"In England, the more highly educated classes have acquired a refined taste, which in many instances cannot be satisfied by the present knowledge, taste, and skill of our own manufacturers and artisans, who are merely beginning to receive some of the advantages which have long been possessed by many of their foreign competitors in ornamental work; and the costly and extensive public museums, and excellent schools of art, to which all classes in the more advanced nations of the continent have gratuitous and ready access, are doubtless the primary means by which our neighbors have been enabled to excel us in the various ornamental departments of industry which demand superior knowledge, taste, intelligence, and training. In the Louvre are galleries not only of pictures and statues, but of choice specimens of ancient manufactures, carved work, brass, steel, and iron-work, and numerous examples of the productions of industrial art in general."

Weekly Steamers to England.—The Liverpool papers by the Great Britain mention that the Government have entered into a further contract with the British and North American Royal Mail Company, the effect of which is to secure a weekly communication by steam between Liverpool and the United States of America. A steamer of great power and size will be dispatched direct from Liverpool to New York every alternate Saturday during eight months of the year. These trips are to be performed as additional voyages, and irrespective of the fortnightly voyages to Halifax and Boston. By this arrangement there will be a steamer from Liverpool to America every Saturday, and from the American side also every Saturday, the only difference being that Boston and New York will alternately be the ports of departure.

Our own Post Master General has made a conditional arrangement with E. K. Collins, of N. Y., for a line of Steamers to run between New York and Liverpool. These, in connexion with the semi-weekly Cunarders, will give to New York and Liverpool a steamer every week.

Total abstinence for seven days is fatal to man, but there are instances of surviving after a longer period. A religious fanatic in 1789, determined to fast 40 days, and died on the 16th.

POETRY.

During a visit to the Massachusetts State Prison, some time since, the Warden spoke with deep interest of a prisoner whose talents as a poet had excited much attention. We find the following lines from his pen in "the Prisoner's Friend." Our readers will agree with us in pronouncing them very beautiful.—*N. Y. Tribune.*

The Prisoner's Address to His Mother.

I've wandered far from thee, mother,
Far from our happy home—
I've left the land that gave me birth,
In other climes to roam;
And time since then has rolled his years
And marked them on my brow,
Yet still, I've often thought of thee—
I'm thinking of thee now.

I'm thinking of those days mother,
When with such earnest pride,
You watched the dawns of my youth,
And pressed me to your side,
Then love had filled my trusting heart
With hopes of future joy,
And thy bright fancy honors wove
To deck thy "darling boy."

I'm thinking on the day, mother,
I left thy watchful care,
When thy fond heart was lifted
To Heaven—thy trust was there:
And memory brings thy parting words,
When tears fell o'er thy cheek:
But thy last loving, anxious look,
Told more than words could speak.

I'm far away from thee, mother,
No friend is near me now,
To sooth me with a tender word,
Nor cool my burning brow,
The dearest ties affection wove
Are all now torn from me:
They left me when the trouble came—
They did not love like thee.

I would not have thee know, mother,
How brightest hopes decay—
The tempter with his baneful cup,
Has dashed them all away;
And shame has left his venom'd sting,
To rack with anguish wild—
'Twould grieve thy tender heart to know
The sorrows of thy child.

I'm lonely and forsaken now,
Unpitied and unblest:
Yet still, I would not have thee know,
How sorely I'm distressed:
I know thou wouldst not chide, mother,
Thou wouldst not give me pain,
But cheer me with thy softest words,
And bid me hope again.

I know thy tender heart, mother,
Still beats as warm for me,
As when I left thee, long ago,
To cross the broad blue sea:

And I love thee just the same mother,
And I long to hear thee speak,
And feel again thy balmy breath
Upon my care-worn cheek.
But ah! there is a thought, mother,
Pervades my beating breast—
That thy freed spirit may have flown
To its eternal rest.
And as I wipe the tear away,
There whispers in mine ear
A voice that speaks of heaven and thee,
And bids me seek thee there. C. M.

For the American Penny Magazine.

ENIGMA, No. 10.

First take a word that does silence proclaim,
And backwards and forwards will spell just the same;
Then add a two syllabled feminine name,
Which backwards and forwards will still spell the same;
An instrument next which lawyers oft frame,
And which backwards and forwards will spell just the same;
A very rich fruit, whose botanical name,
Both backwards and forwards, will still spell the same;
A musical note, which all will exclaim
Written backwards and forwards, will spell just the same;
The initials of these, when joined, form a name
Which ev'ry young lady when married will claim,
And which backwards and forwards will still spell the same.

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